

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, the paragraph beginning at line 17 has been amended as follows:

The object of the present invention is to provide a multiple-fold umbrella including a rib assembly pivotally secured to a central shaft, with the rib assembly including a stretcher rib pivotally connected with a top rib and pivotally secured to the central shaft, an intermediate rib pivotally connected between ~~he~~ the stretcher rib and a rear rib, and a resilient connecting rib slidably coupled with the intermediate rib and resiliently secured between the stretcher rib through a spring device and the rear rib, whereby upon opening of the umbrella, the resilient connecting rib will be arcuately bent in order for automatically ejecting the rear rib outwardly for quickly opening the umbrella without being pulled by the user's hand; and upon closing of the umbrella, the spring device, which is previously tensioned to store its resilience when opening the umbrella, will restore the rib assembly to resiliently retract the rib assembly for accelerating the folding of the umbrella.

On page 3, the paragraph beginning at line 19 has been amended as follows:

The rib assembly 2 includes: a top rib 21 pivotally secured to an upper notch 20 formed on a top of the central shaft 1, a stretcher rib 22 pivotally secured to a runner 20r slidably held on the shaft 1, an innermost end 231 of an intermediate rib 23 ~~having its innermost end 231~~ pivotally secured to the top rib 21 through an inner connecting rib 25, 25 ~~and having~~ an inner rib portion 232 (adjacent to the innermost end 231) of the intermediate rib 23 pivotally secured to an outer end of the stretcher rib 22, a resilient connecting rib 24 slidably coupled to the intermediate rib 23, and a rear rib 26 respectively pivotally secured to an outer end 233 of the intermediate rib 23 and to an outer end 242 of the resilient connecting rib 24 through a joint 27.

On page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 9 has been amended as follows:

The stretcher rib 22 includes: a wide groove 22w formed in an upper ~~(or inner)~~ portion of the rib 22, and a narrow groove portion 22n in a lower ~~(or outer)~~ portion of the rib to be communicated with the wide groove 22w.

On page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 13 has been amended as follows:

A spring device 3 is slidably held in the stretcher rib 22, and includes: a spring 31 having its inner spring end 311 secured to the inner end portion of the stretcher rib 22 or secured to the runner 20r, and a rod 32 secured to an outer spring end 312 of the spring 31.

On page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 17 has been amended as follows:

The spring 31 is slidably held in the wide groove 22w and the rod 32 ~~(or the major portion of the rod 32)~~ is slidably held in the narrow groove 22n.

On page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 20 has been amended as follows:

The rod 32 ~~has its~~ includes an inner rod end 321 connected with the outer spring end 312 of the spring 31, ~~having a free outer rod end 322 approximating an outer end of the stretcher rib 22 and approximating the inner rib portion 232 of the intermediate rib 23,~~ and a hook portion 323 protruding outwardly from an outer rod portion of the rod 32 through a slot 22s notched in a bottom of the stretcher rib 22 to be connected with an inner end 241 of the resilient connecting ~~rib 24;~~ rib 24, and a free outer rod end 322 formed on an outer end of the rod. The free outer rod end 322 approximates an outer end of the stretcher rib 22 and also approximates the inner rib portion 232 of the intermediate rib 23.

On page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 4 has been amended as follows:

The intermediate rib 23 ~~may be~~ is made of plastic material (including reinforced plastics or composites) such as injection molding process, having an inner retainer 23a and an outer retainer 23b disposed on an inner portion (adjacent the inner rib portion 232) and an outer portion (adjacent the outer end 233) of the intermediate rib 23 for limiting the resilient connecting rib 24 within the main groove 23i formed in a bottom ~~(or inner)~~ portion of the intermediate rib 23 for slidably coupling the resilient connecting rib 24 with the intermediate rib 23.

On page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 13 has been amended as follows:

The intermediate rib 23 has its main groove 23i formed in the bottom ~~or inner~~ portion of the rib 23 adapted to be engaged with the stretcher rib 22 (especially the narrow groove portion 22n) when folding the umbrella; and having a shallow groove 23t recessed in an outer portion of the rib 23 adapted to be engaged with the rear rib 26 when closing the umbrella.

On page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 24 has been amended as follows:

The joint 27 ~~may be~~ is formed by integral forming process to be a P-shape structure. The joint 27 has a flat edge portion 270 to be retained by a retainer plate 23p formed on an upper portion of the intermediate rib 23 when opening the umbrella as shown in Fig. 11; and having a shallow recess 270r formed in the flat edge portion 270 for receiving the outer end 242 of the resilient connecting rib 24 when closing the umbrella as shown in Fig. 1.

On page 6, the paragraph beginning at line 17 has been amended as follows:

When opening the umbrella of the present invention from Fig. 1 to Figs. 6, 9, the runner 20r is raised to extend the ribs of the rib assembly 2 (especially to extend the parallelogram link set consisting of ribs 21, 22, 23 and 25) to be a generally linear configuration as shown in Fig. 6. At this time, the resilient connecting rib 24 has its inner end 241 secured to the spring device 3 and also resiliently cushioned by the spring device 3 held in the stretcher rib 22 to obtain a resilient cushioning for ~~smoothening the~~ a smoother operation for opening the umbrella and for preventing noise from ~~noise as possibly~~ occurring among the ribs; and having the resilient connecting rib 24 been arcuately bent (Fig. 6~8) to store its resilience, of which the outer end 242 of the resilient connecting rib 24 is simultaneously arcuately bent (Fig. 8) to get its spring energy.

On page 7, the paragraph beginning at line 6 has been amended as follows:

~~Gradually, the~~ The spring energy especially existing at the outer end 242 of the connecting rib 24 will restore to automatically quickly bias the joint 27 and the rear rib 26 to be linearly positioned as shown in Figs. 9~11 (especially from Fig. 6 to Fig. 9) to fully open the umbrella. The umbrella cloth C as secured on the rear rib 26 will be simultaneously extended outwardly for automatically opening the umbrella. Therefore, there is no need to manually pull (by the user's hand) the umbrella cloth (especially on the rear rib 26) outwardly for fully opening the umbrella, thereby being superior to the conventional multiple-fold umbrella.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning at line 4 has been amended as follows:

When folding the rib assembly 2 ~~when closing~~ to close the umbrella (Fig. 1), the top rib 21 and the inner connecting rib 25 will be received into ~~(and engaged with)~~ the wide groove 22w of the stretcher rib 22, while the narrow groove portion 22n will be received into ~~(and engaged with)~~ the main groove 23i of the intermediate rib 23 for minimizing the folding volume. Therefore, the ribs may be stably engaged folded with one another when closing the umbrella ~~as guided by the above-mentioned engagements of the corresponding ribs, like a "ball-and-socket" mechanism;~~ and the ribs may thus be smoothly extended ~~as initially guided by such engagements (ribs 21, 25 in groove 22w, and rib 22 in rib 23)~~ without being twisted or deformed, being helpful for opening the umbrella quickly.